

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 00165 071705Z

44

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TAGS: PFOR, PROP, IT

SUBJECT: TIMES STORY ON CIA PAYMENTS TO ITALIAN POLITICAL
PARTIES

1. FOLLOWING IS TRANSLATION OF FULL TEXT OF CORRIERE DELLA
SERA'S JANUARY 7 STORY BASED ON SEYMOUR HERSH'S NEW YORK TIMES
ARTICLE:

HEADLINES: ACCORDING TO THE NEW YORK TIMES. IS THE CIA FINANCING
ITALIAN PARTIES? TEXT: NEW YORK, 6 JANUARY. THIS MORNING'S
NYT WILL PUBLISH ON THE FRONT PAGE AN ARTICLE FROM WASHINGTON
WRITTEN BY SEYMOUR M. HERSH CONCERNING AMERICAN FINANCING OF
ITALIAN POLITICAL LEADERS. EXTENSIVE EXCERPTS OF THE ARTICLE
FOLLOW. IT WAS LEARNED TODAY FROM WELL INFORMED SOURCES THAT
THE CIA HAS STARTED TO CONVEY AT LEAST SIX MILLION DOLLARS
(MORE THAN FOUR BILLION LIRE) IN SECRET FINANCING TO ANTI-
COMMUNIST POLITICAL LEADERS IN ITALY WITH THE AIM OF PREVENTING
FURTHER GAINS BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN THE POLITICAL ELECTIONS.

2. THE SOURCES, WHICH HAVE DIRECT KNOWLEDGE OF THE CLANDESTINE
POLITICAL OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT, DECLARED THAT DEFINITE
APPROVAL OF THE SECRET CIA FINANCING WAS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT
FORD A FEW HOURS AFTER HIS RETURN FROM A VISIT TO PEKING LAST
DECEMBER 8. IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO ASCERTAIN THE NAMES OF
THE INDIVIDUAL POLITICIANS WHO HAVE RECEIVED THIS FINANCING.

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PAGE 02 ROME 00165 071705Z

NOR IS IT KNOWN WHETHER THE 40 COMMITTEE (I.E. THE GROUP OF

HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR APPROVING OPERATIONS OF THE SECRET SERVICES) HAS GIVEN ITS FORMAL APPROVAL FOR THE ITALIAN OPERATION, BUT VARIOUS SOURCES HAVE SAID THAT THE CIA PROGRAM HAS SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER'S STRONG SUPPORT. CONGRESS WAS INFORMED ABOUT THE FINANCING IN QUESTION IN DECEMBER.

3. IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT KISSINGER HAD SHOWN EXTREME CONCERN FOLLOWING THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S ELECTORAL SUCCESES IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE ELECTIONS IN ITALY OF JUNE LAST YEAR, WHEN THE PCI GARNERED MORE THAN 33 PERCENT OF THE VOTES. THE CURRENT GOVERNMENTAL COALITION WHICH CONSISTS OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND THE REPUBLICANS NEEDS SOCIALIST AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC VOTES TO OBTAIN APPROVAL FOR ITS PROGRAMS IN PARLIAMENT. AN AMERICAN FUNCTIONARY, NOTING THAT THE ITALIAN POLITICAL PARTIES NOW SPEND TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS A YEAR, DEFINED THE CIA OPERATIONS AS PEANUTS (LITERALLY).

4. THE SAME FUNCTIONARY DESCRIBED THE SECRET OPERATION IN ITALY AS THE SECOND PLAN SERVING THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF THE UNITED STATES WHICH IS TO URGE THE NON-COMMUNIST POLITICAL PARTIES TO REVITALIZE THEMSELVES IN AN ATTEMPT TO PREVENT THE COMMUNISTS FROM ENTERING INTO A GOVERNMENT COALITION. QUOTE SIX MILLION DOLLARS ARE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING UNQUOTE THE FUNCTIONARY ADDED. HE THEN EXPLAINED THAT THE FINANCING WAS DESIGNED TO HELP SEVERAL NON-COMMUNIST POLITICIANS TO GAIN PUBLICITY. QUOTE IF ONE GOES TO A POLITICIAN AND SAYS TO HIM LOOK, WE REALLY WANT TO HELP YOU, AND HE REPLIES I HAVE NO FUNDS AND CANNOT PURCHASE PUBLICITY SPACE, THEN ONE HELPS HIM UNQUOTE. BUT WHAT CAN ONE BUY WITH SIX MILLION DOLLARS, THE FUNCTIONARY WAS ASKED? ONE HAS ASKED THE FUNCTIONARY. QUOTE ONE CAN HELP HIM TO PRINT HANDBILLS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, HELP HIM PRINT HIS SPEECHES, ONLY TO HELP HIM TO GET GOING UNQUOTE.

5. THE NYT CONTINUES THAT KISSINGER DURING HIS TRIP TO EUROPE IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE SAID IN PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH NATO OFFICIALS THAT HE BELIEVES THAT COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE A DOMINO EFFECT ON FRANCE AND WESTERN GERMANY, WHERE COMMUNISTS ARE SHOWING INCREASING SIGNS OF STRENGTH. KISSINGER IS ALSO SUPPOSED TO HAVE SAID THAT UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 ROME 00165 071705Z

COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE A SERIOUS DEFEAT, A SERIOUS SETBACK TO AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY WHICH WOULD LEAD TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE UNITED STATES FROM EUROPE AND WOULD MAKE THE SURVIVAL OF NATO IMPOSSIBLE. THOUGH THE FORD ADMINISTRATION HAS IN GENERAL NOT COMMENTED ON THE ITALIAN POLITICAL SITUATION, SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER DECLARED TO A PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION LAST NOVEMBER THAT QUOTE WE ARE DISTURBED BY THE STRONG SHOWING OF THE COMMUNISTS IN

THE JUNE ELECTIONS UNQUOTE.

6. ON THE SAME OCCASION KISSINGER ADDED HOWEVER THAT QUOTE THE UNITED STATES CANNOT DETERMINE THE ITALIAN DOMESTIC STRUCTURE ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE. ITALY'S FUTURE IS NOT A PROBLEM OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY UNQUOTE. AT THE TIME THESE DECLARATIONS WERE MADE AMBASSADOR VOLPE WAS IN WASHINGTON TO CONSULT WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND WITH PRESIDENT FORD ABOUT THE ITALIAN POLITICAL SITUATION. KISSINGER ALSO REPEATEDLY SAID THAT THESE CONSIDERATIONS HAD INSPIRED HIS DECISION NOT TO PERMIT DIRECT CONTACTS BETWEEN AMERICAN DIPLOMATS AND WESTERN EUROPEAN COMMUNISTS AND HIS INSISTENCE THAT THE UNITED STATES DEAL WITH COMMUNIST PARTIES ONLY IF AND WHEN THEY COME TO POWER.

7. THE FORD ADMINISTRATIONS' DECISION TO GIVE CIA THE RESPONSIBILITY TO FINANCE ITALIAN POLITICIANS FOUND OPPOSITION AT THE PARLIAMENTARY LEVEL. IN PARTICULAR THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONGRESSMAN WAYNE L. HAYS, MEMBER OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, HAS SEVERELY CRITICIZED THE PLAN PRESENTED BY WILLIAM COLBY, THE CIA DIRECTOR, MAINTAINING THAT A LARGE PART OF THE CIA FUNDS CONSIGNED BY THE AMERICAN AGENTS WOULD END UP IN THE PERSONAL BANK ACCOUNTS OF ITALIAN POLITICIANS. ACCORDING TO SOMEBODY WHO WAS PRESENT, HAYS IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE SAID TO COLBY WHEN THE LATTER MADE MENTION OF DIRECT FUNDING OF MONEY QUOTE COLBY, YOU SHOULD HAVE YOUR HEAD EXAMINED, IF YOU DO THIS YOU WILL NOT ACHIEVE YOUR AIMS AND YOU WILL SHOW THAT YOU UNDERSTAND NOTHING ABOUT POLITICS UNQUOTE. ANOTHER SOURCE, WHOSE STATEMENTS WERE HOWEVER NOT CONFIRMED, MENTIONED THAT THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO ROME VOLPE MADE OBJECTIONS TO THE CIA OPERATIONS, MAINTAINING THAT IT WOULD INEVITABLY COME IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN AND THAT IT WOULD END UP BY SERIOUSLY EMBARRASSING THE FORD ADMINISTRATION.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 ROME 00165 071705Z

8. OTHER SOURCES HAVE SAID THAT ON THE OTHER HAND MANY OFFICIALS OF THE EUROPEAN OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE SUPPORTED KISSINGER'S PROGRAM. ACCORDING TO VARIOUS SOURCES THE UNITED STATES HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN INTERNAL ITALIAN POLITICS SINCE THE END OF THE WAR WITH SECRET FINANCINGS UNTIL THE MID-SIXTIES. A FORMER HIGH OFFICIAL OF THE UNITED STATES, UNIDENTIFIED, DECLARED THAT A LARGE PART OF THESE FUNDS WENT FOR QUOTE VILLAS, VACATION HOMES AND SWISS BANK ACCOUNTS OF THESE POLITICIANS UNQUOTE. THIS TIME, THE SAME SOURCE SAID, THE FORD ADMINISTRATION HAS DECIDED TO MAKE THE CLANDESTINE FUNDS QUOTE DIRECTLY TO VARIOUS INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC AND SOCIALISTS PARTIES UNQUOTE. (THE ARTICLE DOES NOT STATE WHICH SOCIALIST PARTY). A SOURCE SAID THAT A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THE FUNDS ALSO WENT TO SOME MEMBERS OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

END OF ARTICLE.VOLPE

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